

Warren County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION NO. 144 OF 2015

Resolution introduced by Supervisors Monroe, Girard, Sokol, Wood, Frasier, Westcott and Strough

SUPPORTING THE STATE'S PROPOSAL TO RAISE THE AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY FROM 16 YEARS TO 18 YEARS CONTINGENT ON 100% FUNDING BEING PROVIDED BY NEW YORK STATE

WHEREAS, Governor Cuomo signed Executive Order 131 on April 9, 2014 to establish the Commission on Youth, Public Safety and Justice instructing the Commission to develop a concrete plan to raise the age of criminal responsibility in New York State and make specific recommendations on how the juvenile and criminal justice systems can better serve youth, improve outcomes and protect communities, and

WHEREAS, the Commission completed its report on December 31, 2014 recommending raising the age of criminal responsibility from age 16 to age 18 over a two year period to be completed in a phased in approach, and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposal recommends that the violation level offenses of Harassment 2nd and Disorderly Conduct shall also be diverted to Probation Departments for Intake and Diversion services, adding a previously unseen population to the workload of Probation staff, and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposal also recommends that Probation Departments hire Family Engagement Specialists and provide continuum of diversion services that range from minimal intervention for low risk youth, and evidence based service for high risk youth, and

WHEREAS, Warren County will not be able to absorb the influx of youth requiring Intake and Diversion services at current staffing levels and will require additional staff to perform these duties, and

WHEREAS, Warren County cannot absorb the financial cost associated with raising the age without 100% funding of the additional staff and services required by the Governor's proposal, and

WHEREAS, the Governor has proposed language in his 30 Day Amendment which cites commencing January 1, 2016, such additional state aid shall be made in an amount necessary to pay one hundred percent of the expenditures for evidence-based practices and juvenile risk and evidence-based intervention services provided to youth aged sixteen years of age or older when such services would not otherwise have been provided absent the provisions of a chapter of the laws of 2015 that increased the age of juvenile jurisdiction, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors calls upon the State Legislature to support the Governor's legislation and to use State Resources to cover 100% of all new costs associated with changing the age of criminal responsibility to avoid financial burden on the counties, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to forward copies of this resolution to the New York State Association of Counties; Governor Andrew M. Cuomo; Senator Elizabeth O'C. Little; and Assemblyman Daniel G. Stec.

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